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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,968	02/21/2002	Kouzou Fujino	NSG-207US	2725
23122	7590	11/16/2005	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P O BOX 980 VALLEY FORGE, PA 19482-0980				CHOI, JACOB Y
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/081,968	FUJINO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jacob Y. Choi	2875	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/6/2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-8 and 10-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1,2,4,6 and 11-39 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5,7,8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

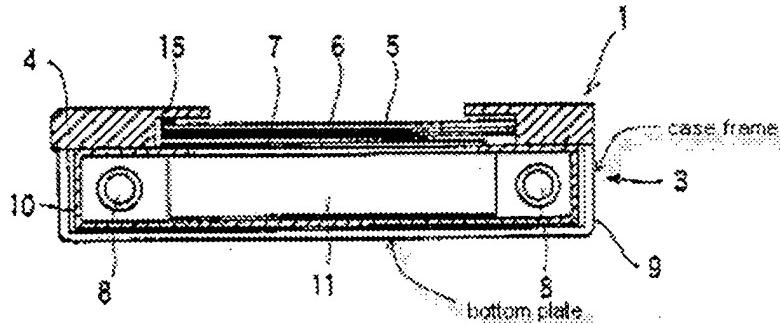
1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okuno (USPN 6,669,356).

Regarding claim 5, Okuno discloses a light guide plate (11) which is planar-shaped (e.g., Figure 7A & 7B) and which includes a front surface, a rear surface and a plurality of peripheral side surfaces, at least one light source (8) which is arranged on at least one of the peripheral side-surfaces of the light guide plate (11), a reflecting plate (10) arranged on the rear-surface of the light guide plate (11) and on at least one of the peripheral side surfaces of the light guide plate (e.g., Figure 7A), a bottom plate (e.g., 9) which is arranged on rear-surface side of the reflecting plate (10), a case frame (e.g., 3) which is arranged around the peripheral side-surface of the light guide (11) plate via the reflecting plate, and a light scattering sheet (e.g., 5 & 7; "diffusive sheet") which is arranged on an upper surface of the light guide plate.



Note: claims in a pending application should be given their broadest reasonable interpretation. *In re Pearson*, 181 USPQ 641 (CCPA 1974).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 7 & 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuno (USPN 6,669,356).

Regarding claim 7, Okuno discloses the claimed invention except for the specific light reflective percentage of the reflecting plate.

Okuno suggests that specifically, “*between the frame and the reflecting plate, four sheets, consisting of a diffusive sheet 5, two lens sheets (condensing sheets) 6A and 6B, and a diffusive sheet 7, are placed to permit the liquid crystal display panel to be illuminated uniformly all over its surface*” (column 8, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to optimize the reflectivity of the reflecting plate to illuminate the liquid crystal display panel uniform over its surface, also since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Regarding claim 8, Okuno discloses the claimed invention except for the specific material being used for the reflecting plate.

Okuno suggest that specifically, “*between the frame and the reflecting plate, four sheets, consisting of a diffusive sheet 5, two lens sheets (condensing sheets) 6A and 6B, and a diffusive sheet 7, are placed to permit the liquid crystal display panel to be illuminated uniformly all over its surface*” (column 8, lines 1-15).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize different materially made reflecting plate/film to provide generally good quality & uniform illuminated surface over its light guide or LCD, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design variation. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okuno (USPN 6,669,356) in view of Tabata et al. (USPN 6,375,335).

Regarding claim 10, Okuno discloses the claimed invention, except for the details of the light source being arranged on the at least one peripheral side surface of the light-guide by fitting at least one pin formed on the side surface of the light guide, into a hole formed on the light source corresponding to the pin.

Okuno suggest, "the present invention may be applied to any other arrangement, such as one in which a point light source such as an LED lamp or a plurality of such point light sources are used. When a plurality of light sources are used, those light sources are arranged so as to form a line or a plane" (column 10, lines 15-30).

Tabata et al. discloses a light-guide plate (10) which is a planar-shaped, at least one light source (LEDs; 30) which is arranged on a peripheral side-surface (12) of the light-guide plate (10), a case frame (45; Figure 41) formed integrally with a bottom cover (frame covers the bottom portion; Figure 41), for accommodating the light-guide plate and the light source (Figure 41), and a light scattering member (11; Figure 10) which is arranged on an lower surface of the light guide plate (10), wherein the light source (LEDs; 30) is arranged on the peripheral side-surface (12) of the light-guide plate (10) by fitting at least one pin (16) formed on the side surface of the light-guide plate (column 9, lines 5-15), into a hole (32) formed on the light source (LEDs) to the pin (16).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify light source(s) of Okuno with a point light source(s), as suggested in column 10, lines 15-30, and additionally combine with teachings of Tabata et al. to accommodate different assembly method of utilizing a pin to place the point

light source(s), LED(s), to the light guide, providing an easy and accurate assembly steps.

Response to Amendment

6. Examiner acknowledges that the applicant has amended claims 5, 7, 8, & 10 and canceled claims 3 & 9.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 5, 7, 8, & 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacob Y. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2367. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (10:00-7:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (571) 272-2378. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JC



JOHN ANTHONY WARD
PRIMARY EXAMINER